

proud that the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Wyoming seems to be in regular form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that George W. Bush of the State of Texas received 3 votes for President and DICK CHENEY of the State of Wyoming received 3 votes for Vice President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Members of Congress, the certificates having been read, the tellers will ascertain and deliver the result to the President of the Senate.

The whole number of electors appointed to vote for President of the United States is 538. Within that whole number, a majority is 270.

The votes for President of the United States are as follows:

George W. Bush of the State of Texas has received 286 votes.

JOHN F. KERRY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has received 251 votes.

John Edwards of the State of North Carolina has received one vote.

The whole number of electors appointed to vote for Vice President of the United States is 538. Within that whole number, a majority is 270.

The votes for Vice President of the United States are as follows:

DICK CHENEY of the State of Wyoming has received 286 votes.

John Edwards of the State of North Carolina has received 252 votes.

This announcement shall be a sufficient declaration of the persons elected President and Vice President of the United States for the term beginning January 20, 2005, and shall be entered, together with a list of the votes, on the respective journals of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The purpose of the joint session having concluded, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 109th Congress, the Chair declares the joint session dissolved.

(Thereupon, at 5 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses of Congress dissolved.)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 109th Congress, the electoral vote will be spread at large upon the Journal.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate by a vote of 1 aye to 74 nays rejects the objection to the electoral votes cast in the State of Ohio for George W. Bush for President and RICHARD CHENEY for Vice President.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Pursuant to House Resolution 11, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces

the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable Robert T. Matsui:

The gentleman from California, Mr. STARK;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. PELOSI;

The gentleman from California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER;

The gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN;

The gentleman from California, Mr. LEWIS;

The gentleman from California, Mr. THOMAS;

The gentleman from California, Mr. DREIER;

The gentleman from California, Mr. HUNTER;

The gentleman from California, Mr. LANTOS;

The gentleman from California, Mr. BERMAN;

The gentleman from California, Mr. GALLEGLY;

The gentleman from California, Mr. HERGER;

The gentleman from California, Mr. COX;

The gentleman from California, Mr. ROHRBACHER;

The gentleman from California, Mr. CUNNINGHAM;

The gentleman from California, Mr. DOOLITTLE;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. WATERS;

The gentleman from California, Mr. BECERRA;

The gentleman from California, Mr. CALVERT;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. ESHOO;

The gentleman from California, Mr. FILNER;

The gentleman from California, Mr. MCKEON;

The gentleman from California, Mr. POMBO;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD;

The gentleman from California, Mr. ROYCE;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. WOOLSEY;

The gentleman from California, Mr. FARR;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN;

The gentleman from California, Mr. RADANOVICH;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD;

The gentleman from California, Mr. SHERMAN;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ;

The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. TAUCHER;

The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. CAPPS;

The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. BONO;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. LEE;

The gentleman from California, Mr. GARY G. MILLER;

The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO;

The gentleman from California, Mr. THOMPSON;

The gentleman from California, Mr. BACA;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. HARMAN;

The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. DAVIS;

The gentleman from California, Mr. HONDA;

The gentleman from California, Mr. ISSA;

The gentleman from California, Mr. SCHIFF;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. SOLIS;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. WATSON;

The gentleman from California, Mr. CARDOZA;

The gentleman from California, Mr. NUNES;

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ;

The gentleman from California, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN;

The gentleman from California, Mr. COSTA;

The gentleman from New York, Mr. RANGEL;

The gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. OBERSTAR;

The gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY;

The gentleman from Michigan, Mr. KILDEE;

The gentleman from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN;

The gentleman from North Dakota, Mr. POMEROY;

The gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE;

The gentleman from Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA;

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH;

The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. HOLT;

The gentlewoman from Ohio, Mrs. JONES;

The gentlewoman from Minnesota, Ms. MCCOLLUM.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of the objection of today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

A FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 241. An act to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

H. Con. Res. 2. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

ELECTION REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I said earlier, as I see my good friend and colleague on the floor, that this was a sacred and historic day, and I am gratified of the leadership of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), my ranking member, who joined together with many of us in Washington and Ohio to acknowledge the sanctity and sacredness of the right to vote and the Constitution.

We did not stand in bitterness or opposition to a person. We did not stand to undermine the presidency of the United States of America. But what we did do was to stand to uphold the Constitution and our oath of office taken on January 4, 2005, and that was to uphold the laws of this Nation. I am grateful for this debate and the process of democracy so that the world can see in Afghanistan, Iraq, in Africa, South America, in Asia, and around the world that America stands for equality and justice. We have work to do, Madam Speaker. There is no paper trail in our process. There is an unequal system of justice of voting in the States. This Congress must work in a bipartisan way to reform the election system of America, and I ask my colleagues to do so.

□ 1730

AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION EXTENDING MUTUAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-5)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Resources and ordered to be printed: *To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation extending the Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation on Mutual Fisheries Relations of May 31, 1999, with annex, as extended (the "Mu-

tual Fisheries Agreement"). The present Agreement, which was affected by an exchange of notes in Moscow on March 3, 2003, and January 30, 2004, extends the Mutual Fisheries Agreement to December 31, 2008.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Russian Federation, I urge the Congress to give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 6, 2005.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ISSUES CONCERNING AMERICA AND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I will begin my remarks as I started this morning and as I continued on the floor just a few minutes ago.

It is good to be an American, and it is certainly good to have Americans value their freedom, their justice, their democracy, and their Constitution.

I said earlier that the debate regarding the election of a President had nothing to do with any personal statement on the executive. But what it did have to do with is, I believe, a value for all Americans, and that is the value of valuing a vote; one vote, one person; one vote counted and not uncounted.

The reason why I rise is because I co-chair the Afghan Caucus, and I was very proud to see the work that was done by all of those around the world that helped contribute to the election process in Afghanistan.

I was equally proud of those who have sacrificed their lives; those who tried to vote but were undermined by terrorists and others who were distracted away from the voting process. And even though there is much disagreement many times about the proc-

ess, we welcome democracy; President Karzai now has begun to turn Afghanistan into a nation that welcomes the education of all people, that welcomes the empowerment of women and the protection of human rights.

So it is important today, January 6, 2005, to reinforce that for our Nation, for if we were to look at some of the infractions, in my own county, in Harris County, Texas, 270 voting failures; the lack of voting places and voting equipment; equipment breaking down; voter intimidation; voter suppression; equipment showing one name, as in my particular election of the Eighteenth Congressional District, constituents voting for me and my opponent's name showing up, who happened to be in the other party. So it is very vital, Madam Speaker, for us to take very seriously the democratic process.

Let me also say in the backdrop of a terrible tragedy in Iraq, and when I say tragedy, obviously what I mean is no reflection on the brave men and women who fight every day, those who I visited and those whose greetings I bring home to their families, but the tragedy of a misdirected war, a war based on weapons of mass destruction that did not exist, a war that was based on liberation, and we are still struggling for that, a war that is ongoing with no end in sight. We still are looking for an election on January 30 and hoping and praying that the Iraqi people will have the opportunity to take up their own destiny.

But that is why this day was so very important and why it was important for Members of Congress, not of any caucus or any one group, to be engaged in the debate and the democracy. I thank the two signers of the petition, as I indicated, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) and the Senator from California, Ms. BOXER.

But I also thank the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), for the insight he had; for the hearings I participated in in Washington and also the hearings that others participated in in Ohio. It allowed us to hear firsthand the pain of people who tried to vote and could not vote. It allowed us to hear firsthand about those who stood in line until 4 a.m., those who were turned away, those who had fewer machines in their community than those in others.

Madam Speaker, I think in this year we are to reauthorize portions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is clearly urgent that we not disregard and disrespect the voting process.

Might I say that my heritage is one that is different from many Americans. My ancestors came here as slaves. When the Constitution was written, they were less than one person. It took constitutional amendments, the 13th, 14th and 15th, one to eliminate slavery, the others to provide equal process and equal protection and due process. And certainly it took the Constitution to acknowledge every citizen's right to vote.